



John Reich Journal

Volume 8 / Issue 1

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$15.00

For general membership information write to:

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The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc. Inquiries about specific varieties will be directed to one of the experts in that series. All correspondence should be directed to:

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Cover Photos: No, the printers did not reverse the negatives! On the front cover is a brockage of an 1825 dime (Obverse 2) and on the back cover is a brockage of an 1827 dime (Reverse 1).
[ex Lovejoy:69]
Photos courtesy of Tom Mulvaney.

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Whole No. 22

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Editors' Comments

This begins, and ends, another year of the JR Journal. This is the first issue of the current fiscal year, Volume 8, number 1, and is also the last issue for the calendar year 1993. We hope that everyone had a wonderful year and added some desirable pieces to their collections. Please accept our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year! We also hope you all enjoy the contents of this issue as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.

The ANA convention was a wonderful time for us and we enjoyed meeting many of you in Baltimore. We look forward to seeing more of you in the new year. Please look us up at the following shows and introduce yourselves. Keith will be attending the Dearborn, Michigan show over Thanksgiving weekend and Brad will be attending the FUN show in January. We both have tentative plans to attend the show in St. Louis in February, the Indiana State show and the Central States Show both being held in Indianapolis, and of course, the ANA in Detroit. We will probably end up at some of the other shows in the Midwest during the year, so keep your eyes peeled for us and say hello!

We can not say enough for the opportunities that are available at the ANA conventions for learning more about our favorite series of coins. The open houses held in the hotel rooms after the show closes each day, are our highlights for the week. There are so many people attending with the same basic interests that we have, all willing to share information and research. We are especially appreciative to Russ Logan for bringing his Castaing machine for all of us to play with in the hotel room. He fabricated a machine that printed, with the use of pre-inked pads, on a mailing label wrapped around a piece of metal tubing. We were able to create many of the error edges listed in the Overton book. This was quite a bit of fun for those who attended and provided for many hours of interesting discussion. We were able to convince Ken Bressett to visit us for an evening, as he did last year, and Ed Rochette also paid us a visit after learning of Russ's machine. The members present were able to meet and talk to two of the leading men in our hobby at the JRCS open house. We really enjoyed the opportunity.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate John Kovach for winning the **Jules Reiver Literary Award** for his excellent article: *Another Visit to Economy, Pennsylvania* which appeared in Volume 7, Issue 4 of the Journal. This article barely outdistanced the fine article by Michael Hodder: *Proof Coins and Politics, 1796-1821* which appeared in Volume 7, Issue 1 of the Journal.

We are especially pleased to announce that every article written for the Journal in Volume 7 received at least one vote in the competition. We believe this shows the outstanding quality of articles submitted to us by the membership.

Now that the congratulations have been handed out, let us remind all of you to send us something to publish in Volume 8. We do have some articles that are being held over for the January issue and apologize to anyone who has submitted items that have not yet appeared. Please bear with us as we hate to have to leave anything out, but we do only have so much space.

Steve Herrman would like to announce the update to his auction prices realized list for Bust Half Dollars. He has been donating \$2.50 from the sales to the JRCS treasury. You can order one from him for \$12.50 postpaid at:
2817 South Jay Street, Denver, CO 80227.

We would also like to thank the membership for their vote of confidence in granting our request for new yearly dues of \$15.00. This increase will enable us to continue producing four quality journals per year. The overwhelming positive response to our request made us feel like we just cherried a R6! Now for the bad news, you will need to send in \$15.00 for your 93-94 dues in order to keep receiving the award winning **JR Journal**. Oh, did we forget to mention that we took third place in the ANA's annual competition? We would like to again thank all the authors that made the award possible.

We would also like to remind you that the Capped Bust Half Dollar Census for R4-R8 varieties will be reported in the next issue. This means that you half dollar collectors will have to send in your censuses in order to be included in the study. Your names will be kept confidential as with all the censuses reported in the **JR Journal** and will be identified only by your membership number. Please do not delay, send in your information today! They must be in by December 18th in order to be included . . . but send them in as early as possible.

One last item to relay, I (Brad) have finally entered the computer age! Yes, Keith finally talked me into getting with the rest of the world. This is my first editorial written on computer. I will really miss my old pencil, but I have found the change quite pleasant. Wish me luck! Oops, one more thing, back issues are still available for \$4.50 each postpaid. We are out of some and running low on others so do not delay in trying to complete your sets. We are still offering the leather binding for your sets at \$100. Drop us a line if you are interested. Now, on with the show!

Bradley S. Karoleff / Keith G. Bellman

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

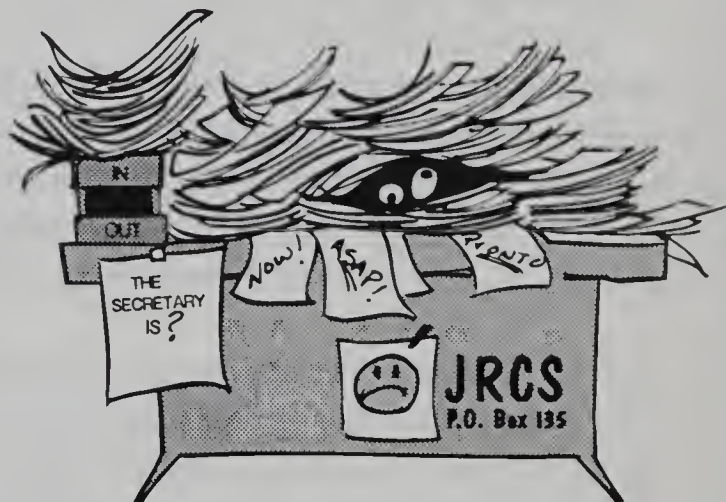


To the membership:

I am deeply humbled by the honor you have given me for my article, *Another Visit to Economy, Pennsylvania*. The **Jules Reiver Literary Award** shall be cherished as much as any R6 - 7 cherry. Thank you all for your kind consideration.

A special thank you goes to Brad Karoleff for his instigation and guidance, without which my only avenue for sharing this information would have been at JRCS meetings/discussions. I also appreciate the moral support given by Wayne Aubel, Pat Pugliano and Chuck Erb.

John Kovach



I am interested in organizing meetings between bust coin enthusiasts living near the Detroit metropolitan area. If anyone is interested in buying/selling/trading coins, showing and discussing peculiar items, discussing research and theories, and meeting other JRCS members, please get back to me with your name and address. Your telephone number is also appreciated. I am hoping that we can meet Saturday evening, November 27th, at the MSNS Convention in Dearborn, Michigan.

David Finkelstein
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I have now had an opportunity to give Volume 7, Issue 4 (July, 1993) the **JR Journal** its second perusal and it most certainly continues the high standard of quality that you two have established. I am so eager to see what is in it when it first arrives that I tend to rush through it. I then go back later to do my 'detail study'. This time I was delayed by a visit from my oldest son and his family, which ties up my 'study' as a bedroom and makes it a bit awkward for serious numismatic pursuits.

I really hated to miss ANA, the JRCS meeting and BHNC meetings, but it just was not to be. How do you feel about next year in Detroit? I have followed all the controversy in the numismatic press, and must admit that I am a bit apprehensive about planning to attend. I hate to be held captive in the host hotel-which is also always the most expensive place around. Do you suppose either (or both) JRCS and BHNC might ever consider having the annual meeting at one of the other 'majors'??

My second reading of Brad's article on the 1829s has convinced me that it is just about the ideal example of what a numismatic article can be. It brings up a point that most of us, who like to think that we know something about Bust Halves, were not aware of. He examines it in a full, logical and informative manner, and makes very reasonable conclusions. Fascinating as well as informative and instructive! I know that I will never again look at an 1829 without first checking the 2 for a 'knob - no knob'. Absolutely first rate work.

The other article that also merited a very careful second reading was John Kovach's *Another Visit to Economy, Pennsylvania*. I have always been considerably bothered by certain elements of the 'usual' accounts of the Economy Hoard. It was very difficult for me to believe that a cash hoard of that size could have been buried, all at one time, during the Civil War, and then so completely forgotten. Frankly, it just did not make much sense. The facts, as John uncovered and recounted them, fill all the gaps very nicely. It appears to me that his account should take its place in numismatic history as the accurate and complete story. It certainly is a matter of great interest to those of us who spend most of our numismatic efforts on 'Busties' . . . since about a third of what I believe to be all surviving Bust Halves must have come from Economy. And remember, this information was brought to you by the premier journal of U. S. silver coinage - the **JR Journal**.

Does the **Reader's Digest** still use the slogan they did years ago - "Articles of Lasting Interest"? If not, **JRJ** should appropriate it!

Thanks for another great effort.

Phil J. Evans



As one who has written similar articles incorporating a large amount of rarity data, let me say at the outset that I appreciate firsthand the amount of effort that went into Phil Evans' *An Estimate Of 'The Survivors'* in Volume 7, Issue 3 of the **JR Journal** (April, 1993). However, I must take issue with the conclusions.

Simply put, while I have no quarrel with the relative rarity ratings for the Capped Bust Halves. I think the absolute numbers of survivors as cited by Phil are off - way off - because many, many coins, especially after 1823, have never been attributed. Thus the number of survivors in the R1 through R5 range, particularly, are gross underestimates.

The earliest work on percentage survival was done by the late Walter Breen, which was expanded upon by Sheldon with specific regard to the cents of 1794. The accepted conclusion was that roughly 3% of the earliest Federal coinages survived; and at least as regards large cents, 45 years of additional data accumulation (since the publication of Sheldon's **Early American Cents**) has tended to support this conclusion. In his **Silver Coinages Of The Philadelphia Mint 1794-1916**, Walter offered percentages of survival for the earliest Federal silver coinage, as well:

for half dimes, 1794-1805: "a fraction over 1%"

for dimes, 1796-1811: "not far from 4%, possibly nearer 3%"

for quarters, 1796-1815: "between 2.5 and 3 percent"

for silver dollars, 1794-1803: "the ratio is well established to be 4%"

Between suspension of silver dollar coinage in 1804 and its regular resumption In 1840, the half dollar was employed substantially as a bullion reserve coin by the banks of that era. Walter gave it as his opinion that for half dollars 1794-1803, the survival was "about 5%, thereafter very much higher, rising possibly to 30% or more in the 1820's and 30's; these coins rarely left bank vaults in the early days." Some of this coinage literally came to light only after a century's passage, in the aftermath of the crisis in the banking industry in the early 1930's.

At any event, the total mintage of halves 1830-1836 was 38,951,670, of which 30% would be over 11.6 million. This, versus Evans' total estimate of a little over 113 thousand, calculated from the rarity ratings, differs by a factor of 100! There is no way to reconcile two such figures. The premise used to arrive at one, or the other, simply has to be wrong.

I recently published an article on survival of Large Cents 1801-1807, as derived from current rarity ratings (**Penny-Wise XXVI**: 159, 1992). Three conclusions from that study

stand out. One, only varieties originally rated R6 or higher have tended to hold their lofty rank; the lists are littered with R5's turned R3, R4's turned R2, etc. Put another way, all but the rarest have increasingly "tended toward R1," as defined on the old Sheldon scale. Two, even using the revised criteria for R1 through R3 that is listed below:

R1 : over 2000

R2 : 601-2000

R3 : 201-600

there is no way to make the total survivors equal more than about 1.5% of the original mintage. And three, there is no way to reconcile THAT percentage with the universal awareness among copper collectors that far more cents dated 1801-1807 survive than 1794's, with their solidly established 3% survival.

The problem, ultimately, is with the rarity scale. As detailed in **Early American Cents**, it was not only designed for, but derived from, a group of unattributed 1794 cents. The farther afield one gets from that date, and denomination, the less applicability it has. And, as Breen noted on page 707 of his work, **Complete Encyclopedia Of U.S. And Colonial Coins**, it does not properly discriminate "... among coins with larger overall populations, where a coin of which 2,000 or even 5,000 survive brings many times the price of its cousin of which 10,000 survive. And in other series, a coin of which 4-6 survive may bring many times the price of its relation of which 8-10 survive" (p. 707) Perhaps Dave Bowers' new Universal Rarity Scale, described in depth in his upcoming book on silver dollars, will be the answer.

So what is my opinion as to the survival of Capped Bust Halves? Phil brought up Morgan and Peace dollars; their total mintage was over 847 million. Reducing that figure by the 270 million melted and subsequently recoinced under terms of the Pittman act leaves 577 million. Given their limited circulation, and limited additional attrition, the overwhelming majority of those still survive. I think Phil's cited figure of 200 million is indeed conservative. That would be less than one silver dollar for every person in the country ... is THAT intuitively reasonable, given not only what we see at coin shows, but at every out-of-the-way country auction, or allowing for what non-collectors have tucked away in their dresser drawers? I think 500 million is closer to the truth. And across the board, I think I have seen 50 silver dollars dated 1878-1935 for each half dollar dated 1807-1836. That would make for 10 million survivors among the halves. Still, until we can plug accurate data into a workable rarity scale, the 'bottom line' will remain anybody's guess.

Harry Salyards

Obverse Die Dentil Analysis, Part 1 - Capped Bust Halves, 1807 to 1819

David Finkelstein

INTRODUCTION

I have always been fascinated by overdates on Bust Halves. My curiosity of the phrase “struck from a leftover obverse die” lead me to a study of the obverses of overdated halves in an attempt to determine if the overdates were indeed struck from leftover obverse dies. Four key diagnostics were used in my analysis:

1. the number of dentils on the obverse die,
2. the first use of the obverse die within the emission order sequence,
3. the master hub that was used to create the working die,
4. the differences between the same date digits across years.

In order to put everything in perspective, and to be complete, my study mushroomed into an analysis all Capped Bust obverse dies. This study does not include the reverse dies, nor does it review the different dentil sizes and the spacing between adjacent dentils. These are future projects.

This is the first in a series of a date/variety/die dentil analysis for the obverses of Capped Bust Halves. My study uses the information provided both directly and indirectly from three external sources, without which this study could not have been possible. They are:

1. **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836**, Third Edition,
Al C. Overton, Editor Don Parsley, 1990
2. **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836**, Revised Edition,
Al C. Overton, 1970
3. **America's Silver Coinage 1794-1891**, *Edges and Die Sequences on Early Half Dollars*, Ivan Leaman and Donald Gunnet.
Coinage of the Americas Conference, American Numismatic Society, New York, NY 1987

I would also like to thank Mark Borckardt, Don Gunnet, David Kahn, Brad Karoleff, Dick Kurtz, Ivan Leaman, Russ Logan and Dr. Glenn Peterson for their valuable input.

Some of my speculations may be new to the Bust Half collecting community. My only hope is that this study provides the impetus for other enthusiasts to provide additional information that confirms, or disproves, my speculations.

OBVERSE DENTIL COUNTS

There are 125 known Capped Bust varieties dated 1807 to 1819. Of these, 18 overdates were made from 15 different obverse dies.

Table I - Obverse Die Dentil Counts By Overton Variety

VAR	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1817	1818	1819
ST7	LC	LC	UC	UC	UC	UC	UC	UCLC UC	UC	LCUC	LCUC	LCUC
101	155?	136*	123	123	122*	106*	97	101*	109*	101*	97*	110*
102	156?	126	124	122	122*	105*	97	100		98*	110*	110*
103	156?	128	125	122	111	107	98	95		106	97*	110*
104	154	124	125	121	111	105	98	98		111	110	110*
105	158	125?	125	120	106	104	97	101?		106	110	110*
106	158	125?	125	122	106	104	98?	101?		108	110	110*
107	158	125	125	120	106	105	98	99?		110	110	110
108	153	154	125	120	113	105	97	99?		110	110	110
109	153?	154	125	?	106	?	97	100		110	110	110
110	157	140	125	?	112	106	97			108	110	110
111	141		122		112					107	110	110
112	142		124		107?					110	110	110
113	152		124		112					107	110	109
114	145		124								110	110
115			124								110	111

Table I is arranged by Overton variety and shows the number of dentils on the obverses of all Fillet Head and Capped Bust Halves from 1807 to 1819. A value followed by an '*' indicates an overdate. A value followed by a '?' indicates that most of the dentils were present on the coin(s) used to count the dentils, and the number of dentils is either correct or off by 1. A '?' with no value indicates that there were insufficient dentils to count. I would appreciate reader feedback for those varieties that have a '?'.

Table I also specifies the star 7 to headband relationships for each year. LC indicates that star 7 points somewhere on the lower curl for all varieties. UC indicates that star 7 points somewhere on the upper curl for all varieties. LCUC indicates that star 7 points to positions on both the lower and upper curls. Note that only 1 of the 125 Capped Bust varieties dated 1807 to 1819 (1818 O115) has star 7 pointing to a position higher than JCHB!

Table II is arranged by obverse die number as identified by Overton, and shows the number of dentils on the Capped Bust obverse dies. Note that 1811 Obverse 5 (O106) and 1811 Obverse 7 (O109) are both included in the table, even though they are the same obverse die. 1813 Obverse 3 (O105) and 1813 Obverse 7 (O110) are also both included, even though they too are the same obverse die. Refer to the **Supplement To Early Half Dollar Die Varieties**, by The Bust Half Nut Club, 1987, or **Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836**, Third Edition, page 659.

Table II - Obverse Die Dentil Counts By Overton Obverse Number

OBV	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1817	1818	1819
1		136*	123	123	122*	106*	97	101*	109*	101*	97*	110*
2		126	124	122	111	105*	98	100		98*	110*	110*
3		128	125	121	111	107	97	95		106	110	110*
4		124	125	120	106	105	98?	98		108	110	110*
5		125?	125	122	106	104	98	101?		110	110	110*
6		125?	122	120	113	105	97	99?		110	110	110
7		125	124	120	106	?	97	99?		108	110	110
8	141	154	125	?	112	106		100		107	110	110
9	142	154		?	112					110	110	110
10	152	140				107?				107	110	110
11	145									111	110	110
12											110	109
13												110
14												111

Table III - Obverse Die Dentil Counts By Emission Order (EO)

Reused Obverse Dies Eliminated

EO	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1817	1818	1819
1		136*	124	123	122*	106*	98	101*	109*	101*	97*	110*
2		140	122	122	112	105*	97	98		98*	110	110*
3		154	125	?	112	106	97	99?		106	110	110*
4		154	125	122	113	?	98?	99?		108	110	109
5		128	123	120	111	107	97	101?		107	110	110
6		126	124	?	111	105	98	100		111	110	110
7		124	125	120	107?	105		100		108	110	110
8	152	125	125	120	106	104		95		107	110	110
9	145	125?		121	106					110	110	110
10	141	125?								110	110	111
11	142									110	110	110
12											110*	110
13												110*
14												110*

Table III is arranged by emission order according to Leaman/Gunnet, but for the first use of the obverse die (i.e., the first dentil count for any given year is for the first obverse die in the emission sequence, the last dentil count for any given year is for the last obverse die in the emission order). This table shows the obverse dentil counts for the Capped Bust Half dies in the order that they were probably completed. Note that in this table, the reuse of 1811 Obverses 5 and 7, and 1813 Obverses 3 and 7 are not included.

The following is a date analysis of the obverse die dentil counts, and my attempt to link overdate halves to the years that the obverse dies were completed. I strongly recommend that you follow along with your copy of the Overton reference guide.

Note that I refer to the date and the stars being 'engraved' on the working die, rather than 'punched'. I have no evidence that they were punched in whole, or part, or completed / touched up in some fashion with some sort of tool. I use 'engraved' to mean any process that results in the digit or star ending up on the working die.

1807 - No Overdates

Fillet Head obverse dies range from 153 to 158 dentils. Capped Bust obverse dies range from 141 to 145 dentils except for Obverse 10 (O113) which has 152 dentils. From a dentil viewpoint, Obverse 10 is the only noteworthy die for the year. A further study of this obverse die has resulted in the following observations:

1. The number of dentils is more consistent with the range of dentils on 1807 Fillet Head obverse dies than the 1807 Capped Bust dies.
2. The stars are more distant from the dentils than other Capped Bust Halves of the era, which is also a diagnostic of the 1807 O101, O108, O109, and O110 Fillet Head Halves.
3. The date is set high and distant from the dentils, which is characteristic of the 1807 Fillet Head Halves.
4. Based on emission order, Obverse 10 was the first Capped Bust Half obverse die used.

Based on the above, I believe Obverse 10 was prepared using the standards and techniques of the Fillet Head Halves. The only major differences between this obverse die and the Fillet Head obverse dies, besides the size of the stars, appears to be that the bust is facing left and it is capped.

The stars on Obverse 10 halves are 2.75 mm, whereas the stars on other 1807 halves are 3.0 mm. Mark Borckardt, of Bowers and Marena Galleries, was kind enough to measure the stars on other denominations minted in 1807 and 1808. Mark identified that the Large Cent of 1808 has obverse stars that range from 2.6 mm to 2.8 mm in size. I have not yet had the opportunity to compare the stars on high grade specimens of 1808 Large Cents to the stars on high grade specimens of 1807 O113 Halves. If they match, it would be the basis for another article, since it would raise the immediate question of why 1808 Large Cent stars are on 1807 dated Halves. I will provide an update in a future edition of the **JR Journal**.

Star 7 points to various positions on the lower curl only.

1808 - 1 Overdate Die

For the 10 obverse dies, the numbers of dentils range from 124 to 154. There are 7 different counts. Based on Overton variety order (see Table I), there appears to be no pattern for the dentil counts on the obverse dies. Based on the emission order (see Table III), I perceive that the Mint was experimenting, and eventually standardizing, on an obverse dentil count of 125 (or nearly so).

The overdate, 1808/7 Obverse 1 (O101), was the first obverse die used in 1808, and has 136 dentils. This is not consistent with the number of dentils on 1807 Capped Bust Halves (141-152). Based on the number of dentils, 1808/7 Obverse 1 can not be linked to a leftover obverse die prepared in 1807. Is it possible that 1808/7 Obverse 1 was prepared in the 1808 production period with the wrong date, and then corrected by engraving an 8 over the 7?

Star 7 points to various positions on the lower curl only.

1809 - No Overdates

The number of dentils on 1809 halves range from 122 to 125. There is no noteworthy difference for 1809. For the first time, there appears to be a standard count for the obverse dentils (125), which was carried over from the final production of 1808 (the last 5 obverse dies used in 1808 had either 124, 125 or 126 dentils - see Table III).

Star 7 points to various positions on the upper curl only.

1810 - No Overdates

The number of dentils on 1810 halves range from 120 to 123. Although slightly lower in range from 1809 halves, the numbers are still within a narrow range.

Star 7 points to various positions on the upper curl only.

1811 - 1 Overdate Die

The number of dentils on 1811 halves range from 106 to 113, except for 1811/0 Obverse 1 (O101 and O102). This obverse die has 122 dentils, which is consistent with the number of dentils on 1810 halves (120-123), and not consistent with the number of dentils on 1811 halves. Based on dentil count, I believe that 1811/0 halves were struck from a leftover 1810 obverse die.

Star 7 points to various positions on the upper curl only.

1812 - 2 Overdate Dies

The number of dentils on 1812 halves range from 104 to 107. Based on emission order, the range of dentils on 1812 halves is consistent with the range of dentils on 1811 halves struck during the latter part of the 1811 production period (see Table III).

1812/1 Obverse 1 (O101) and Obverse 2 (O102) dies had 106 and 105 dentils respectively. Based on dentil count alone, it is not possible to determine if the 1812/1 halves were struck from leftover 1811 obverse dies. It is known, however, that the 1812/1 overdates were indeed struck from leftover 1811 obverse dies. According to Leaman/Gunnet, the obverse master die was reengraved in 1812 and a new obverse master hub was made. All non-overdate 1812 varieties were struck from working dies prepared from the new master hub. The two overdate dies were prepared from the master hub made in 1809.

In addition, three different types of 1s were engraved on the 1812 obverse dies. The 1 engraved on 1812/1 Obverses 1 and 2 is identical to the 1 engraved on 1811 halves, and is unlike the 1 engraved on the non-overdates of 1812. The 1 engraved on 1812/1 Obverses 1 and 2 has a short flag that is angled down on top from right to left. The 1 engraved on 1812 Obverses 4 through 6 is slightly taller than the other 1812 1s and has a longer flag than the 1 engraved on the 1812/1 obverses. The 1 engraved on 1812 Obverses 3, 7, and 8 has a long flag that is horizontal on top.

Star 7 points to various positions on the upper curl only.

1813 - No Overdates

There are either 97 or 98 dentils on 1813 halves. This is the first year where the number of obverse dentils is less than 100. Other than that, there is nothing significant from a dentil viewpoint.

Star 7 points to various positions on the upper curl only.

1814 - 1 Overdate Die

The number of dentils on 1814 halves range from 95 to 101.

1814/3 Obverse 1 (O101) has 101 dentils. This is inconsistent with the number of dentils on 1813 halves (97-98), and more consistent with the number of dentils on 1814 halves (95-101). Based on emission order, 1814/3 was the first half struck with the 1814 date. I am speculating that 1814/3 O101 was prepared during the 1814 production period, mistakenly engraved with a 3, and then corrected by engraving a 4 over the 3.

Star 7 points to various positions on both the upper and lower curl. Based on the emission order (with reused obverse dies removed), the star 7 to headband positions are UHC, CC, CC, LEC, LEC, UHLC, CLC, and JOC. It is interesting that the obverse dies for halves struck earlier in the year had star 7 pointing to the upper curl, and the halves struck later in the year had star 7 pointing to the lower curl.

1815 - 1 Overdate Die

There are 109 dentils on 1815/2 Obverse 1 (O101). This is inconsistent with the range of dentils on 1812 halves (104-107) and more consistent with the range of dentils on halves dated 1817 and later. Based on dentil count alone, the 1815/2 obverse die can not be linked to a leftover 1812 obverse die.

The 1 engraved on the 1815 obverse die has a flag that is much longer and appears more horizontal on top than the flags of the 1 engraved on 1812 halves. Although this is not conclusive evidence, I am speculating that the 1815/2 half was not prepared from a leftover 1812 obverse die, but from a blundered obverse die prepared in 1815.

Star 7 points to the upper curl.

1817 - 2 Overdate Dies

The number of dentils on 1817 halves range from 98 to 111. If the two overdates (1817/3 Obverse 1 and 1817/4 Obverse 2) are eliminated, the number of dentils range from 106 to 111.

1817/3 Obverse 1 (O101) has 101 dentils. This is identical to the number of dentils on 1814/3 Obverse 1 (O101), consistent with the range of dentils on 1814 halves, but inconsistent with the range of dentils on 1813 halves (97-98). 1817/3 has a large 8, which is consistent with the size of the 8 on 1813 and 1814 halves. The non overdates of 1817 have a small 8. Is it possible that like 1814/3, 1817/3 was struck from a die prepared in 1814, incorrectly dated as 1813, temporarily discarded, and then used in 1817?

1817/4 Obverse 2 (O102) has 98 dentils. This is consistent with the range of dentils on 1814 halves (95-101). 1817/4 has a large 8, which is also consistent with the size of the 8 on 1814 halves. I therefore believe that 1817/4 was struck from a leftover 1814 obverse die.

One inconsistency is that no attempt was made to eradicate the under-digit of the 1817/3 and 1817/4 halves, when some or a lot of effort was made on the 1808/7, 1811/0, 1812/1, 1814/3, and 1815/2 halves. (Note: I had the opportunity to view an 1817/4 at the ANA in Baltimore. The 4 was completely visible, except for where the 7 digit directly fell over the 4 digit.)

According to Leaman/Gunnet, 1817 introduced the use of the third obverse master die and master hub. The obverse dies struck from the new master hub are Obverse 5 (O107 and O108), Obverse 6 (O109), and Obverse 9 (O112). These are the only 1817 obverse dies with 110 dentils and based on emission order, were the last 4 1817 obverses used! Although not significant now, the significance appears shortly in that most of the obverse dies that were struck from late 1817 through 1833 had 110 dentils.

Star 7 points to various positions on both the upper and lower curl, and even to the bridge of the nose on O111! Based on emission order, there appears to be no pattern for the placement of star 7 to the headband.

1818 - 2 Overdate Dies

All 1818 obverse dies have 110 dentils, except for 1818/7 Obverse 1 (O101 and O103), which has 97 dentils. According to Leaman/Gunnet, 1818/7 Obverse 1 was struck from the second obverse hub used from 1812 to 1817, and all other 1818 obverse dies were struck from the third obverse hub engraved in 1817. This implies that 1818/7 Obverse 1 was struck from a leftover 1817 obverse die. I agree, and my proof will follow shortly.

There are three puzzling inconsistencies that require discussion. First, 1818/7 Obverse 1 has 97 dentils which is not consistent with the non-overdates of 1817 (106-111 dentils). Second, the first 8 is large which is also not consistent with the non-overdates of 1817. Third, star 13 is scalloped which is again not consistent with the non-overdates of 1817. How could a leftover 1817 die be so different from a non-overdate die of 1817?

It was not until I had a conversation with Dick Kurtz that I was able to come closer to solving this puzzle. I believe the three inconsistencies exist because the dies were prepared by two different people. I now believe that 1817/3 Obverse 1 and 1817/4 Obverse 2 were completed by Robert Scot, and that 1818/7 Obverse 1 was initially prepared by John Reich prior to his departure from the Mint in March, 1817.

When Reich left the Mint, Robert Scot, then 73 years old, became responsible for preparing dies. For reasons unknown to me, Reich's completed 1817 obverse die was not used in the 1817 production period. Without an 1817 obverse die available, I am speculating that Robert Scot retrieved a partially completed 1813 die. He completed the die by engraving a 7 over the 3, and engraving either some or all of the stars. Robert Scot engraved star 13 on 1817/3 Obverse 1, not John Reich, therefore it is not scalloped! After 1817/3 Obverse 1 was completed, Robert Scot retrieved an unused, but completed 1814 obverse die. This die had all 13 stars engraved, including Reich's scalloped star 13. Scot engraved the 7 over the 4. Whereas John Reich made attempts to eradicate the under-digit of the overdate, Robert Scot made no effort to eliminate the original digit.

Robert Scot made the obverse dies for the non-overdates of 1817. Since he added the dentils to the die, they range from 106 to 111. At the start of the 1818 production period, John Reich's completed 1817 die was used. This die had 97 dentils and star 13 scalloped. Robert Scot completed the die by engraving an 8 over the 7. Whereas John Reich used a large 8 in 1817, Robert Scot used a small 8 in 1818 to create 1818/7 Obverse 1!

Based on emission order, 1818/7 Obverse 2 (O102) was the last obverse die used for the 1818 production. 1818/7 Obverse 2 was prepared from the third obverse hub, had 110 dentils, a small 8, and star 13 was not scalloped. This is identical to all non-overdate obverses of 1818. It is my belief that 1818/7 Obverse 2 is a blundered die prepared and corrected during the 1818 production period.

I believe that the Mint made every effort to use unused obverse dies as soon as possible. Based on emission order, all Capped Bust overdate obverse dies prior to 1818/7 Obverse 2 (1808/7, 1811/0, 1812/1 Obverse 1, 1812/1 Obverse 2, 1814/3, 1815/2, 1817/3, 1817/4, and 1818/7 Obverse 1) were used prior to their corresponding years' non-overdate dies. Had 1818/7 Obverse 2 been created from a leftover 1817 die, it should have been used before the non-overdate dies of 1818, not after!

Star 7 points to the upper curl on all obverse dies except 1818/7 Obverse 1 (O101 and O103), which points to the lower curl, and 1818 Obverse 12 (O115), which points to UHHB. This is the first year that has star 7 pointing to a headband position of JCHB and higher.

1819 - 5 Overdate Dies

All 14 obverse dies of 1819 had 110 dentils except for Obverse 12 (O109) and Obverse 14 (O111).

Overton identified 6 1819/8 varieties; O101 through O106. Based on emission order, 1818/7 Obverse 2 (O102) was the last obverse die used for the 1818 production period. Since it is my belief that 1818/7 Obverse 2 was a blundered 1818 die, how could there have been 5 leftover 1818 obverse dies to produce the 1819/8 overdates? Wouldn't one of them have been used instead of 1818/7 Obverse 2? Although I do not have conclusive evidence, I believe that all 1819/8 obverse dies were blundered dies prepared in 1819.

The 1 engraved on 1819/8 Obverse 4 (O105) is identical to the 1 engraved on the non-overdates of 1819. Since this type of 1 does not appear on any of the 1818 halves, I feel confident that 1819/8 Obverse 4 was a blundered obverse die prepared in the 1819 production period.

All 1819 obverses have star 7 pointing to the upper curl except for Obverse 2 (O102 and O103).

DIE PREPARATION CONCLUSION

If my speculations of 1817 and 1818 are correct (and that Robert Scot completed the 1817/3 obverse die), then the stars had to be the last details added to the working die. Prior to this study, I felt that obverse details were added in the order of dentils, stars, and date. Of course, I had no evidence. I now believe that the ordering was dentils, date, and stars.

I encourage reader feedback; whether positive or negative. If anyone disagrees with my theories or speculations, please provide your evidence to the contrary. I am also interested if anyone can offer additional evidence to support my speculations.

To be continued . . .

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Capped Bust Half Dollar Census

It is a very exciting time for us in the JRCS. Russ Logan has informed us that we will have a new addition to the censuses that we publish every other journal. For the January, 1994 edition of the journal we will have an 'R4 or above' Capped Bust Half Dollar Census (1807 - 1836). Everyone is encouraged to send in their census. Your identity will be kept secret by using your JRCS membership number as the heading for your collection. Your personal census will be kept confidential and not be used for any other reason. This, and other censuses compiled by the JRCS for its members, is a valuable tool for determining rarity and condition census for the varieties. Please forward your census, or questions, to the editors at:

P.O. Box 135, Harrison, Ohio 45030.

A Bust Half Die Remarriage

Russell J. Logan

Our champion numismatists, Sheldon, Valentine, Overton and others, wrote books and collected coins from the early Federal period. They described the obverse and reverse working dies in sufficient detail so that future collectors could distinguish a specific obverse or reverse from all others. They also described the various obverse/reverse combinations that were known to them. From this humble beginning, a whole generation of collectors have enjoyed pursuing the many die marriages of our Federal coinage.

As colossal a task as it may appear to the novice to acquire 400+ bust half die marriages, it happens rather quickly after the 'fever' sets in. This leaves the collector searching other collecting avenues related to bust halves. Many of us have pursued the bogus or counterstamped brethren, or have become entranced by the numerous die states in which a particular die marriage may be found. Next we may wish to sort them chronologically as to strike: the perfect coin with full dentils and no die cracks first; the intermediate coins with light die cracks and drawn stars next; and lastly the coin in terminal state. This is the first step in establishing an emission order. When other die marriages share these same dies, they too may be sequenced into this emission order.

Collectors of our Federal coinage have discovered that some coins were struck several years after they were dated. Some collectors may have even found a remarriage. But more important, they have spent untold hours of sheer delight unraveling the chaotic activities of the Mint through the 1830's.

DIE REMARRIAGE

During the process of reconstructing the emission order, one may encounter a strange phenomenon: a die remarriage. A die remarriage occurs if the same obverse and reverse working dies are reunited in the press after striking another die marriage. Thus, the working dies were divorced and used with another obverse/reverse to produce a different die marriage, and then reunited to strike the original die marriage. This sequence of events may be reconstructed by studying the degradation of the working die by observing the loss of dentils and/or the progression of die cracks on the coins.

Because these remarriages represent discrete steps in the emission sequence many collectors consider them to be an integral part of die marriage set. The problem with collecting them today is knowing what to look for. They exist in the middle date large cents (Craig Sholley assured me so), the half dimes, the dimes, and now, the Turban Head Half Dollars.

BUST HALF DOLLAR REMARRIAGES

Recent articles by Alan Bricker and Mark Smith in the last couple **JR Journals** have described two remarriages that exist in the Capped Bust Half Dime series. Our Bust Dime book, **Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837** describes three such remarriages. To the best of my knowledge no remarriages have been identified in the Capped Bust Half series . . . until now. Al Overton did document the remarriage of the flowing hair 1795 O103 and 1795 O103a by listing the O103a after the O105. This feature was not repeated in the third edition. So how can one collect something that may not exist?

As there are plenty of multiple die usages and a wonderful paper presented by Donald Gunnet and Ivan Leaman at the 1986 ANS COAC [*Coinage of the Americas Conference*] in New York, entitled *Edges and Die Sequences on Early Half Dollars*, I decided to try to find a remarriage in the Capped Bust Half Dollar series. After writing to Don and talking with Ivan at FUN last January, they advised me to concentrate my efforts in the late 1820's as they encountered some edge emission inconsistencies during that era.

From their knowledge I was able to compress the remarriage suspect list to the following working dies:



Figure I - 1828 O118 Early Die State.
No die cracks; strong and distinct dentils.



Figure II - 1828 O118 Intermediate Die State.
No die cracks; ICA of AMERICA drawn to edge. Dentils still strong.

1825 Obv 6
 1826 Rev C
 1827 Obv 2
 1827 Obv 4
 1827 Obv 5
 1827 Obv 17(22)

1827 Obv 23
 1827 Obv 24
 1827 Rev AB
 1828 Obv 13
 1828 Rev P

TABLE A - A partial list of Bust Half Dollar working dies that were used to strike more than one die marriage.

I knew that any remarriage that I found had to be photographic; preferably depicting the progression of a die crack from one marriage to the next. After looking through my duplicates, I wrote letters to other collectors asking them to study certain die marriages. I searched my local dealer's stock. Whenever I thought I had hit pay dirt, the die crack turned out to be a scratch, or the coin was too low grade and would not display enough detail in a photograph. My postal costs were mounting and my interests were waning; six months had passed; I needed a new approach.



Figure III- 1829 O110 Intermediate Die State.
 Die crack through 50 C. Dentils weak under olive leaves.



Figure IV - 1828 O118A Late Die State.
 Die crack progresses through UNITED STA;
 Dentils missing under olive leaves.

A BUST HALF PARTY

We were having a three day show in the area, so why not encourage as many Bust Half Nuts to attend the show and bring along some specific die marriages? But having been on the receiving end of the query "bring along some coins," I knew that I must be both brief and specific if I was to be successful.

Starting with Table A, I assembled from my collection the die marriages which were struck from the same working die, and then determined their striking sequence, and verified it with the Gunnet/Leaman study. I then reasoned that if I asked to see what I perceived to be the first die marriage in the emission sequence from a working die, I might be shown the last! In this fashion I concluded that I could examine a large number of coins in a very short period of time then have a photographic example showing EXCESSIVE die cracks.

1828 O118a

Applying this logic to Reverse P of 1828 (the same reverse die was used in 1829 and is known as Reverse G), I assembled the two known die marriages which share this reverse: 1828 O118 and 1829 O110. My 1828 O118 set coin is a very early die state with no reverse die cracks and well defined dentils. There is no evidence of the letters drawn to the edge. This, I concluded, was an early die state. (See Figure I) On the other hand, my 1829 O110 had some die cracks through 50 C. (See Figures III, IIIa and IIIb) Clearly, my 1828 O118 was struck before my 1829 O110. So what I wanted to find was a late die state of the 1828 O118 with more die cracks than my 1829 O110.

Fortunately, more 'Bust Nuts' attended the show than there were Bust Halves at the show, so there were plenty of coins for me to examine. Chuck Erb was the first to give me some halves to inspect for my die remarriage study. I was truly delighted and could not wait to check out my method. And



Figure IIIa - 1829 O110 Intermediate Die State. Enlargement of die crack through 50 C. Note strength of dentils under 50 C.

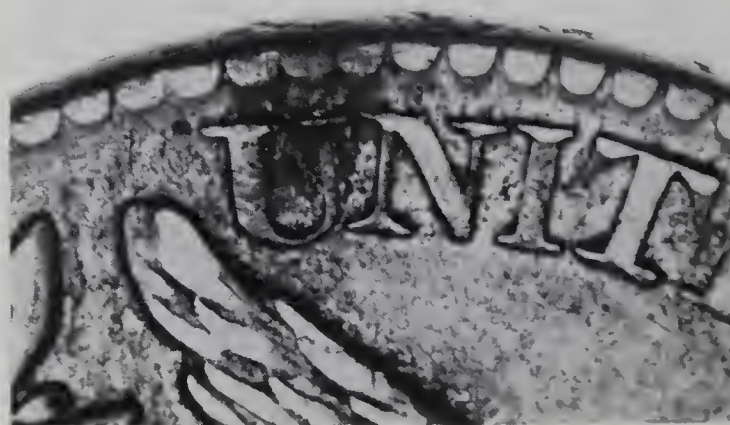


Figure IIIb - 1829 O110 Intermediate Die State. Enlargement of die crack through UNITED. Die crack terminates at D.

lo and behold, Chuck's 1828 O118 was nothing like my early die state with no die cracks [Figure I]; his coin had a heavy die crack through UNITED and was clearly struck after my 1829 O110! Eureka! (See Figures IV, IVa and IVb)

To make this die progression complete, Brad Karoleff provided an early die state example of 1829 O110 with no die cracks and strong dentils, but with ICA of AMERICA drawn to the edge. (See Figure II) I brought all these coins with me to ANA for everyone to see and compare. No one challenged my conclusion, and no additional 1828 O118a's surfaced at the convention!



Figure IVa - 1828 O118A Late Die State.
Enlargement of die crack through 50 C.
Note absence of dentils under 50 C.



Figure IVb - 1828 O118A Late Die State.
Enlargement of die crack through UNITED.
Die crack extends to STATES (See Figure IV).

CONCLUSION

There is no question in my mind that some of us who collect Federal coinage by die marriage are as eccentric as the material itself. Only you can decide how you will collect and what your goals will be. What influences your decisions are the current reference books as well as the current collecting trends. As our knowledge expands, our collecting interests have become more and more specialized. The emphasis has shifted from a type set, to a date set, and now to a die marriage set. We are becoming more detailed and more specialized. Those of us who have tapered off in our recent purchases because it is difficult to find any improvers and expensive to find new die marriages, now have another avenue to pursue without changing disciplines.

So here is the challenge to all of you Overton students: find the other die remarriages in the Bust Half series. Start by using the Gunnet/Leaman emission order charts to find all the common die linkages and then see if you can find a remarriage. And when you do, that sudden overflow of adrenaline will never be forgotten. Bust Halves are FUN!

Remember these remarriages represent discrete changes in the setup of the coining press, and are identifiable only by die state.

Many thanks to Brad Karoleff who coordinated the photography with our now official photographer Tom Mulvaney and who provided two of the coins photographed in the article. Thanks also to Don Gunnet and Ivan Leaman for leading me in the right direction and to Wayne Smith and Chuck Erb for helping in the remarriage search.

Bust Half Dollar Remarriage

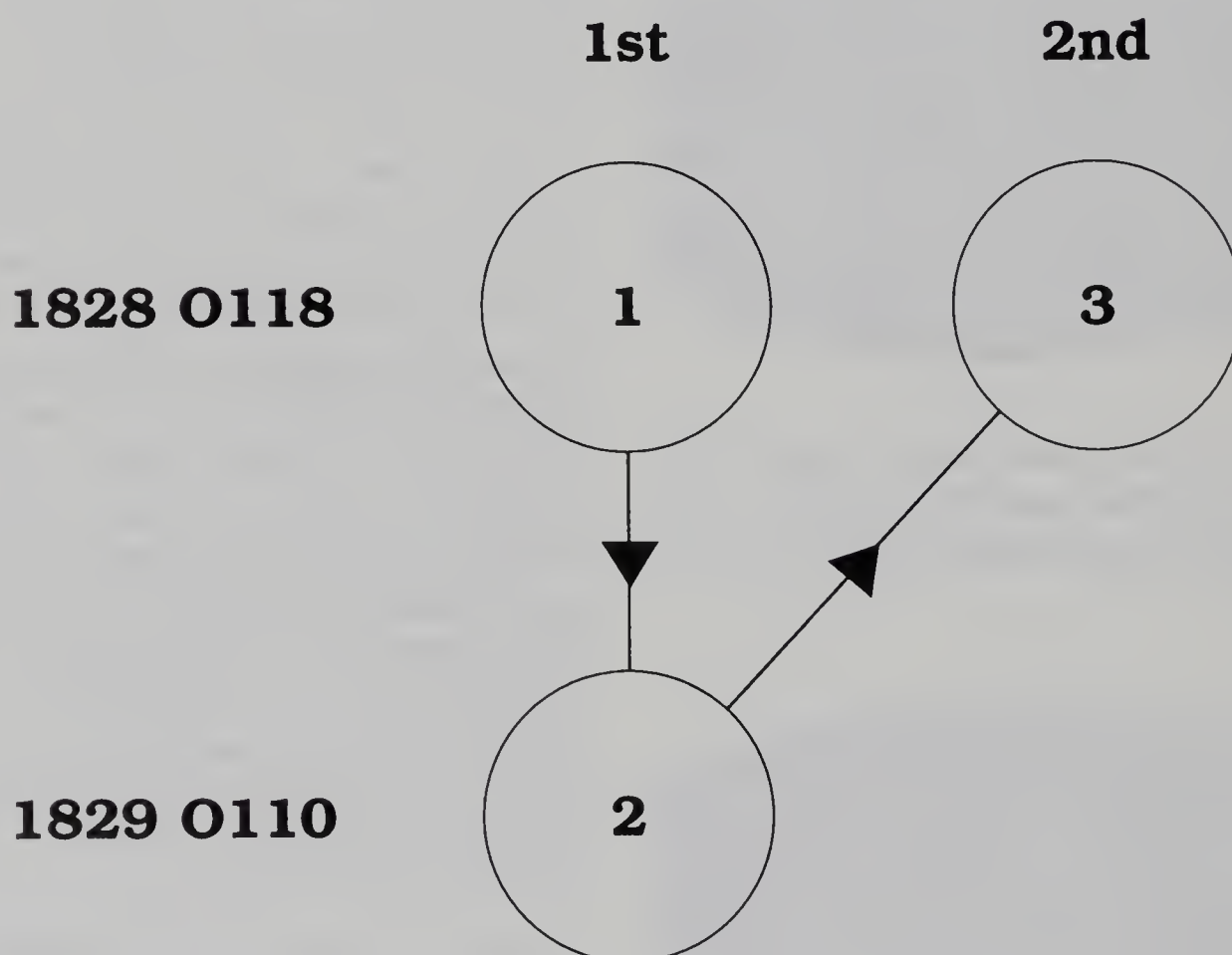


Table B - Emission sequence for Large Letter Reverse of 1828 O118, 1829 O110, and 1828 O118A.

[All photos accompanying this article are courtesy of Tom Mulvaney]



The Missing Scalloped Point

Dick Kurtz

Individuals familiar with the Capped Bust Half Dollar Series know that a small notch (the scalloped point) is present on one of the six points of the thirteenth star for the first ten years of the series. Because this feature appeared when John Reich joined the mint staff in 1807, and (apparently) is not present on dies prepared after he left in 1817, it is generally accepted that the scalloped point was his 'trade mark'.

There is no doubt that the scalloped points were deliberate, since they always occur on the thirteenth star, and with the exception of one date, all point in the same direction within a given year. The scalloped points on the four obverse dies in 1807 all point outward toward the dentils. While that orientation continued for all 1808 obverse dies, in 1809 all scalloped points are directed inward, toward the curl. It hardly seems accidental that this reversal occurred, but then in 1810 the notched points are turned outward on six dies and inward on three others. Apparently Reich made up his mind because, beginning in 1811, uniformity was restored with the notched side pointing toward the dentils on all dies for the balance of his involvement with the series.

No half dollars were coined in 1816 following the fire that damaged the mint's rolling equipment, but it is the final year of the Reich era, 1817, that presents a puzzle to me.

Overton 102 of the year 1817, the famous and exceedingly rare 1817/14, has the scalloped point facing the dentils, as one would expect in resurrecting a die made three years earlier. The orientation of the scalloped point is consistent with all known obverse dies used to strike 1814 dated halves, which evidenced the outward facing scalloped point. Apparently Reich prepared at least one 1817 die as well, because it was overdated the next year, and mated with two different reverse dies to give us 1818/17, first 8 large, O101 and O103. As one might expect, the scalloped point again faces the dentils of the coin on these two die marriages.

What I do find intriguing is the fact that 1817 O101 (17/13) does NOT show evidence of a scalloped point when one would most certainly expect. Since all known obverse dies prepared in the Reich era have a scalloped point on the thirteenth star, why would just ONE 1813 die fail to have this feature?

One possible explanation that comes to mind is that the die had been dated, but the stars not punched in, when it was stored at the end of 1813. If the stars were then punched in after Reich left the mint, the lack of his 'trade mark' would not be surprising.

While a nice explanation, it does not seem to hold too much water upon close examination. Given the scarcity of good die steel and the significant skilled labor investment in die preparation, the mint was understandably less than hesitant to overdate dies in those days. However, in my opinion, it would not make much sense to date a die before it was completed in every other way, almost assuring that it would be overdated later on.

There is another, perhaps better, reason to doubt that the stars were punched in this die after Reich left the mint. The fascinating work⁽¹⁾ that Gunnet and Leaman have done on the 'third' side of the coin - the edge - indicates that 1817 O101 was struck before O102. Would Reich have left the scalloped point off if he were punching in the stars on this die? I doubt it. I do not have access to mint delivery records, nor do I know when in 1817 he left the mint, so it is always possible that Reich had nothing to do with the preparation of ANY die made or used in 1817, save the 1818 overdates. If that is so, it would lend credence to the idea that the stars were the last devices punched into the die.

And of course, the simplest explanation of all would be that another mint employee (Scott?) punched in those stars four years earlier.

Whatever the reason, I find it most curious that just one die of so many over ten years is missing the scalloped point. Any thoughts from the membership on this point would be most welcome.

Addendum 8/93: David Finkelstein made a thought provoking presentation on Capped Bust dentil counts at this year's ANA in Baltimore. One potential conclusion drawn by Dave is that the 1817/13 was a new 1817 die with the final numeral of the date, 3, punched in error, and then overpunched with a 7. I believe that the lack of a scalloped point on this die, while not conclusive, certainly supports his hypothesis.

⁽¹⁾ **America's Silver Coinage 1794-1891**, available through The American Numismatic Society, Broadway at 155 Street, New York, NY 10032. Any JRCS member who has not yet acquired this excellent book would be well advised to do so.



Countermarks On Early U.S. Dollars

Robert Stark

“Why would anyone countermark an early dollar?” Judging from the relatively few known countermarks, and their relative scarcity, not many people bothered!

The countermarking of coinage has a long history. Often known as counterstamps, some writers have called them countermarks. The logic is that while some may be stamped, some are not, and the essential quality is the marking rather than the means of application. To sticklers of usage, ‘counter’, in the sense of alternative value or usage. That is, usually there is no attempt to ‘alter’ the value of the coin or its primary purpose as coinage. Other terms may be more appropriate than ‘countermark’; but we use that term without an attempt to settle the terminology.

Countermarking was far more common on lower denomination coinage than upon dollars. The dollar, after all, was a sizable sum at a time when ten dollars was a weekly wage. A dollar coin surely experienced a lower velocity - time between changes of ownership - than smaller denominations. Also, these dollars were struck with dates from 1794 to 1803. Although they circulated into the mid-1800’s, many were melted. That melting is the presumed reason that their coinage was halted by President Jefferson. Of course, coinage of lower denominations continued. These factors, besides the wide use of the Spanish dollar, help explain why our early dollars were not a likely choice for countermarking. The number of known countermarked dollars is too small to generalize on either their geography or the merchants who produced them.

Countermarks can be organized into four categories:

It is not surprising that in an era of thrift and relative immobility, Yankee entrepreneurs used the opportunity for nearly free advertising. Consider the advantages! Advertising on coinage could reach a wide local clientele, and for long periods. The advertising appears on an item of value which would not be discarded, or become obsolete (as a periodical, or handbill, for example). The countermark aids name (or product) recognition. Finally, considering the ever present expense of advertising, it is hard to overlook the low cost.

It seems reasonable that a large coin of value would serve both as pocket piece and as emergency cash at a time when credit cards, checks, and even paper currency were not

widely used. A ready identification mark helped its owner to distinguish it from other pocket change intended for routine spending.

There are ample instances of coinage that have been countermarked by various governmental authorities. The usual purpose is to relieve a local coin shortage or otherwise lend value to circulating pieces. While other U.S. silver coinage shows evidence of such use, particularly by Hispanic American governments, the writer does not have evidence of such markings on the early dollar except for the fleur-de-lis of Puerto Rico (as noted later).

Finally, a countermark could be used to establish value. This appears to be the case for the five shilling Hurlet countermark, and that of George III (both identified later).

A note on the countermarks listed is useful! They are divided into three indicated categories. Within categories the listings are generally alphabetical according to the first letter of the obverse legend. Known auction references are given. References appear within brackets, [].

First, we list countermarks intended for local use and to certify value:

Fleur de Lis

This countermark was used in Puerto Rico to indicate government sanction in the 1880's according to Kleeberg. It appears on a holed 1800 dollar owned by the American Numismatic Society [Kleeberg].

George III, bust in an octagonal impression

George III, bust in an oval impression

The oval impression is known on a 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar while the octagonal impression exists on 1798 and 1799 dollars.

The small countermarks are often found on Spanish coins and only rarely on U.S. coinage. The origin of these countermarks was the severe shortage of circulating silver in England in the last years of the 18th century. The English government at that time possessed



Fleur de Lis - Coin and photo courtesy of Dr. John Kleeberg, American Numismatic Society.

sizable quantities of Spanish dollars from captured prizes. As an experiment, in March 1797, the king's head, used to mark silver, was stamped upon the head of the Spanish king. The pillar dollars were to be valued at 4s.6d. each. Before the day of issue it was discovered that the bullion value was 4s.8d.. To prevent melting, they were revalued at 4s.9d. per dollar and nearly 2 1/2 million were issued by the Bank of England.

(This couplet, soon appeared,

“The Bank to make the Spanish dollar pass”

“Stamped the head of a fool on the head of an ass”.)

The issue was immediately counterfeited. Spanish dollars were privately stamped for a nominal gain of 1d. per coin. Consequently, the issue was soon demonetized. In early 1804, the countermark assumed an octagonal shape. This was also counterfeited so that in May 1804, the new dollar was announced. Mr. Boulton, of Soho, Birmingham, was engaged to countermark the Spanish dollars with the king on one side, and Britannia and the words “Five Shilling Dollar, Bank of England, 1804” on the other. These countermarks largely obliterated the Spanish design although some details are occasionally visible. The official act applied only to Spanish dollars. However, countermarked fractional coinage is known in addition to the few U.S. pieces. It is not known whether these were countermarked accidentally or by counterfeiters hoping to pass foreign coinage more readily.

[Wood] [Bangs & Co. Sale, May 1888, Lot 1947, 1795 Flowing hair]

[The Numismatic Circular, British Museum, article by R.H.M. Dolley, circa 1955]

The second category consists of countermarked names.

Some can be associated with known merchants of the era. Others may be personal pieces. Countermarks intended as advertising would have been produced in some quantity. One might expect that with such numbers it should not be difficult to distinguish them from personal pocket pieces, of which perhaps only one would have been produced. Such expectation is mostly frustrated by the scarcity of surviving countermarks. Only the several examples of the famous Houck's Panacea countermark of the old Baltimore firm seem to be an exception.

Of the many countermarks that can be associated with merchants, usually only one or two pieces are known. The L. L. Squire, Brinsmaid's, and the five shilling Hurlet pieces are examples. Sometimes, fortunately, the countermarks can be matched with those appearing on artifacts (spoons, etc.) of known silversmiths described in such volumes as that of Flint and Fales (see References). The list follows:

A. BOLKCOM

Countermark on a serrated rectangle on a 1799 dollar. [Brunk]

A. GODDARD

Countermark on an 1800 dollar. [Brunk, 16380]

A. POU'L T

On an 1800 dollar.

B. COLLINS

On an 1800 dollar.

BEN T. HEALD / MARCH 28TH 1837.*

On a 1799 dollar. [Brunk, 18960]

B. H. JONES / PATENT

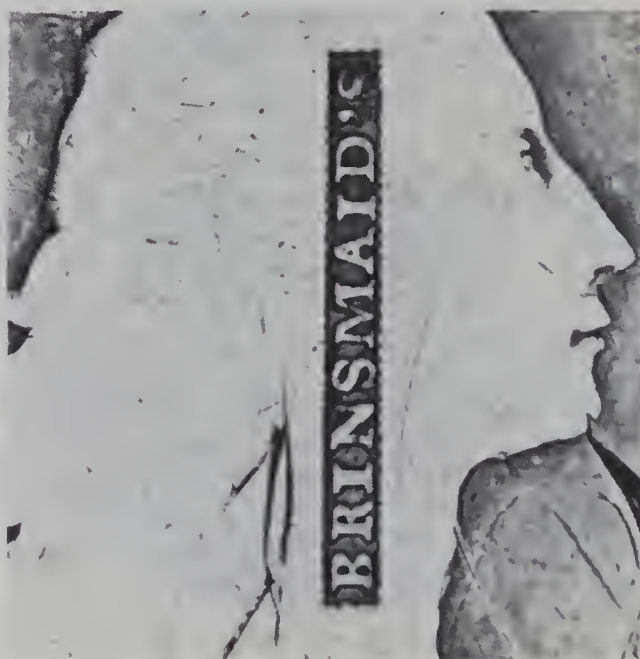
On a 1795 dollar. [Brunk, 21965]



Coin and photo courtesy of Jules Reiver.



The Brinsmaid's countermark is on a 1795 B8 dollar. This is a very rare variety (double struck to boot). The countermark may be a clue to the distribution of this variety.



Notice the incuse box with letters in relief. This is linked to Brinsmaid's silver spoons from the late 1700's with the exact same countermark.

BRINSMAID'S

Abram Brinsmaid, a silversmith, of Burlington, Vermont Countermark on a 1795 dollar. Abram Brinsmaid was born in 1770 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts and died in Burlington, Vermont in 1811. The mark used on this piece (in relief within a rectangular recessed punch) is widely known on antique silverware and was used long after Brinsmaid's death by his successors. [Rulau, *Early American Tokens*] [Brunk, 5230]

C. C. CLARK / 1842 / 1864 / 1879 / (Flower)**C. C. CLARK / 1842 - 1879**

The countermark with the three dates appears on an 1802 dollar while the second countermark is upon a 1799 dollar.

Carlos C. Clark, mostly self-employed as a gunsmith in Windsor, Vermont to 1859. From 1846 to 1856 Clark was employed by Robbins & Lawrence, makers of percussion rifles. In 1859 Clark moved to Nashua, New Hampshire and then to Manchester, New Hampshire in 1863 while maintaining the Windsor business until 1868. He may have retired in 1879. Rulau, in his merchant token listing, conjectures that Clark was probably the first New England gunmaker to use circulating coins as an advertising medium.

He was widely imitated. The dates could relate to his career; having started his business in 1842 and retiring in 1879. The 1864 date may be the date of actual relocation to Nashua. According to Rulau, both countermarked dollars were issued in Manchester. [Rulau, *U.S. Merchant Tokens*; Brunk, 34550]



A contemporary advertisement in the
New Hampshire Business Directory.

C. EDWIN / EGGLESTON

On a 1798 Heraldic Eagle Dollar. [Brunk, 13115]

FANNIE. M. HOVER

On a 1799 dollar. [Brunk, 20250]

FORCE

On an 1800 dollar. Possibly the hallmark of Jabez W. Force, a New York City silversmith (1819 - 1841). [Brunk, 14605]

G. STERRETT

On a 1798 dollar. [Brunk, 38313]

H. G. STONE

On an 1803 dollar. Hubbard Stone was a New York silversmith.

H. JONES / 1854 / B / PATENT

On a 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar, as illustrated in Rulau's **U.S. Merchant Tokens**, the coin is holed at the E of LIBERTY. [Brunk, 22000]

HOUCK'S PANACEA / BALTIMORE

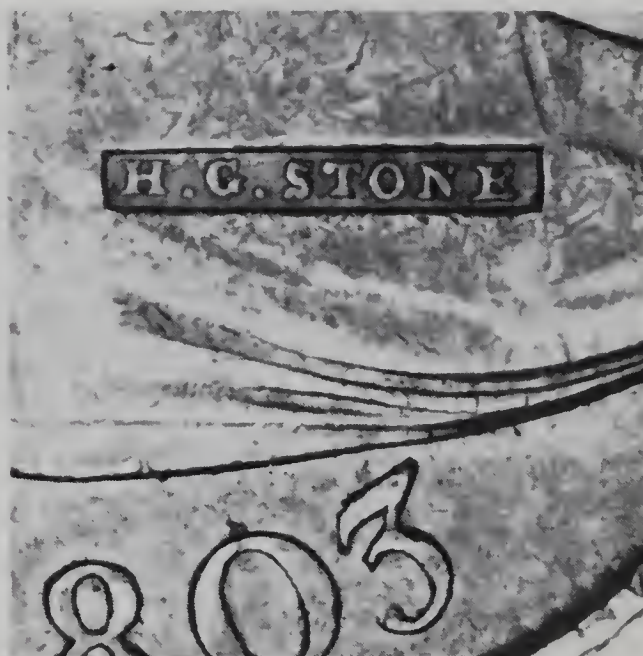
The countermark is known on several dates including a 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar, 1800, and 1799 dollars as well as other denominations. An advertisement of the era cites the remarkable variety of ailments which this vegetable product relieves. An 1842 Matchetts Baltimore City Directory lists the firm's address as German and Hanover Streets. [Brunk, 20140] [**John Reich Journal**, Volume 7, Issue 1, (October, 1992)]

J. HEANEY

On a 1799 dollar. [Brunk, 18969]

J & JW / 5 / . / HURLET

This is the mark of the Copper and Coal Co., John Wilson, Proprietor, of Hurlet, Renfrewshire, Scotland; probably in the early 1800's. Its appearance here is on an 1800 dollar that is owned by the American Numismatic Society in New York. The coin, a gift of Mrs. Norweb in 1967, was purchased by her from Seaby's of London. [Brunk, 52420]
[Seaby's Bulletin, Aug. 1966, 4003B]



Coin and photo courtesy of Jules Reiver. This countermark has also been linked to silver spoons of the period.



Coin and photo courtesy of Dr. John Kleeberg, American Numismatic Society.

J. MCLEAN / 5 / 3 / COTT: ST. PAISLEY

On oval mark on a 1799 dollar.
John McLean sold groceries, alcohol, and tea at 6 Cotton Street, Paisley Scotland (1812-1826). [Brunk, 53070]

JOHN HOLTON

On an 1800 dollar. [Brunk, 19935]

JOHN HULTON

On an 1800 dollar. [Brunk, 20673]

J. STEVENS

This countermark appears twice on the reverse of a 1798 small eagle dollar and only partially (three letters) on the obverse. Possibly countermarked by John Stevens of Hoboken, New Jersey. A brass token of 1829 for one dollar "payable in specie" was apparently issued in connection with a ferry operation. That token, unique and the property of the American Numismatic Society, is the earliest known on a dollar denomination trade token used in America.
[Heritage Sale, June 5-7, 1986, lot 945]

L. BAILEY

On a 1795 dollar, the mark of Lebbus Bailey, a gunsmith, apparently living in Portland, Maine.

L. BART

On a 1799 dollar. [Brunk, 2570]



Prepared solely from Vegetable Matter,
By JACOB HOUCK, Baltimore.

Which may be taken with perfect safety by all ages and in all diseases; its cures are for the following diseases—Dyspepsia, Loss of Appetite, Indigestion, Inflammation of the Stomach, Heart Burn, Diarrhea, Dysentery or Flux, Piles, Fistula, Obstructed Menstruation, Ague and Fever, Billious or Remittent Fever, Typus Fever, Scarlet Fever, Small Pox, Erysipulous of St. Anthony's Fire, Asthma, Pleurisy, Measels, Yellow Fever, Costiveness, Wind on the Stomach or Bowels, Cholera Morbus, Consumption, Influenza, Colds, Coughs, Inflammation of the chest, Palsey, Gout, Rheumatism, Inflammatory Sore Throat or Quinsey, Whooping Cough, Thrush or Sore Mouth, Putrid Sore Throat, Croup, Inflammation of the Heart, Dropsy, Rickets, Diseases of the Liver, Jaundice, Difficulty of making Urine, Gleet, Hysterics, Nervous & Scrofulous Affections of the Members and Ligaments, Mercurial and Venereal Diseases, Ulcers, Sores, Affections of the Skin, and all diseases arising from Impure Blood, &c.

Price per Bottle \$1 50.

The above medicine can be obtained at No. 121 Market street, opposite the Museum, with proper directions for using. A liberal discount made to persons who buy to sell.

A contemporary advertisement for Houck's Panacea by Jacob Houck from Baltimore.
See discription on previous page.

L.L. SQUIRE / N. YORK (obverse)

L.L. SQUIRE / J. MERRITT / N. YORK (reverse)

Countermarks on a
1795 dollar. Lewis L. Squire
& Sons were ship chandlers
and rope makers on Front
Street in New York City.
Tokens issued by the firm
cite dealings in anchors, oils,
paints, blocks, oakum, spikes,
naval stores and importers
of chain cables.
[Brunk, 37820 and 37830]

LEWIS L. SQUIRE,
SHIP CHANDLER,
AND MANUFACTURE OF CORDAGE,
Importer and Agent for the sale of Chains, Anchors,
Spikes, Oakum, Blocks, &c. Dealer in Flags, Bunt-
ing, Paints, Oils, Brushes, Naval Stores, &c., &c.

No. 288 FRONT STREET, NEW YORK.

M. MINER

Countermark on 1798 dollar.
[Brunk, 28010]

A contemporary advertisement for
Lewis L. Squire (L.L. SQUIRE / N. YORK).

M.E. COFFIN

Countermark on 1797 dollar.
[Brunk, 8620]

N.E. TAYLOR

On an 1800 dollar. [Brunk, 39490]

N.P. McKEAN / NASHUA / NH

Countermark on a 1795 dollar. [Brunk, 26970]

O.J. NEAL

On a 1799 dollar. [Brunk, 29320]

OLD STEVE

On an 1800 dollar. [Brunk, 30195]

PEACOCK

Appears on obverse and reverse of an 1802 dollar. [Duffield] [Brunk, 31410]

**SEYMOUR HARRIS / PARK THEATRE /
NO.() / N.Y. / AUG. 9, 1834**

Decoratively lettered on a 1799 dollar.

W.R. is engraved on reverse.

The Park Theatre, also known as
The Theatre of New York, opened
in 1798. It was destroyed by fire on
December 16, 1848.

SMITH

Appears in a large curved indentation on a
1798 dollar. [Brunk, 36888]

STROHECKER

Countermark on each side of a U.S. 1796
(small date, large letters) dollar. [Rulau,
Early American Tokens] [Brunk, 38780]

W.B. JOY

Countermark on a 1798 dollar.
[Brunk, 22183]

W.B. THRALL

Countermark on an 1800 dollar.
[Brunk, 39915]

WAGNER

Countermark on a 1799 dollar.
[Brunk, 41430]

**The third category includes
countermarked initials.**

Some initials have been associated
with merchants. Examples are the EB and
T.C. countermarks. A controversial R. F.
countermark appears frequently on coinage.
This list follows:



Coin and photo courtesy of Jules Reiver.



Coin and photo courtesy of Jules Reiver.

AP*C

Appears on a 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar in G-VG.

DET

On a 1799 dollar. [Brunk, 11476]

D.T.

On a 1799/98 dollar in VF, "finely made letters" deeply engraved. [Leu Numismatic Auction, October 1990, lot. 1736]



Photo courtesy of Tim Benford

E.B.

EB countermarks appear on a variety of coins, including a 1799 dollar cited by Bolender as the mark of Ephraim Brasher. The EB marks appear in relief in an oval or rectangular depression. Bolender cites a rectangular depression for the 1799 dollar. Ephraim Brasher (1744-1810) was a New York goldsmith. He is famed for his association with George Washington and for the EB marking on rare gold doubloons. Brunk suggests that not all EB marks necessarily belong to Brasher but may also belong to Ezekiel Burr, a Providence, Rhode Island silversmith, who died in 1846. [Bolender; Rulau, **Early American Tokens**] [Brunk]

"EGG"

Countermark on a 1795 dollar. [Duffield]

E.M.

Countermark on a 1795 Flowing Hair Dollar. [Duffield]

FW / BC / 1863

Countermark on a 1799 dollar, clockwise, **FW** in script at left ribbon, **B** and **C** in upper field, and **1863** in right field.

"G.E.E."

Countermark on a 1798 dollar. [Duffield]

N.S.

Countermark within a rectangular crenate indent on a 1798 dollar. Also, partially legible scratched graffito reading **IBFTELTHAM** on obverse. The same, but smaller, countermark appears on a 1857 flying eagle cent. [Leu Numismatic Auction, October 1990, lot 1739; Benford]

R.B.

Countermark on a 1799 dollar. Curiously, Rulau's **Early American Tokens** lists this countermark on a Massachusetts Oak Tree shilling (dated 1652). He suggests the possibility that its use in the late 18th century is linked to the countermark to the 1799 dollar here. Possibly due to Roswell Bartholomew, a Hartford silversmith active from 1804 to 1830. [Brunk, 33340]



Coin and photo courtesy of Jules Reiver.

R.F. /1845

Countermark on several dates including an 1800 dollar. [Hans M.F. Schulman Sale, March 18 & 19, 1966, lot 1513] It has been suggested that R.F. is an abbreviation of "Republique Francaise", indicating usage in the French Carribean. Partial support for this is in a French edict of 1802 providing that silver dollar size coins have octagonal sections cut from center and stamped "4E" (4 Escalbins, a local currency) and "R.F.".

U.S. cents, quarter and half dollars dated between 1814 and 1818 and countermarked "R.F." have been attributed to Guadeloupe. [Duffield]



Photo courtesy of Tim Benford.

S & D

In a rectangle on an 1801 dollar. [Brunk, 35425]

T.C.

Countermarked twice on obverse and once on reverse in relief within rectangular depression on 1802 dollar. The mark is an "exact match" with those of Thomas Carson an Albany, New York silversmith active about 1815. [Rulau, **Early American Tokens**]

U.S.

Countermark on an 1801 dollar. [Duffield]

WG AND Co. / 4 / 9

British countermark on a 1795 flowing hair dollar. [Brunk, 54680]

The following countermarks defy our categories:

An Eight Point Star

Appears three times on a 1795 dollar [Duffield].

A Pierced Dollar

A 1798 dollar centrally pierced in a rectangular shape possibly done in Guadeloupe and possibly a fabrication or concoction.

These countermarks are a footnote to the 'extra curricular' usage of our early dollars which, incidentally, were often known as 'daddy dollars' or 'dollars of our daddy'. These are often found holed, as many were strung about the necks of children to aid teething.

Finally, although I believe each listing, I have not personally verified every one.

Undoubtedly, other countermarks and dates exist.

Acknowledgements

It is a pleasure to acknowledge with 'thank you' the aid of Timothy Benford, Gregory Brunk, Richard Doty, John Kleeberg, and Jules Reiver. The authors cited in the References made my effort much easier. While I have obviously depended upon many sources, Brunk's work clearly is the most important in this area.

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Dates to Remember

December 1, 1993 - Dues must be in to the editors in order to renew your 1993-1994 membership and to continue receiving a quality **JR Journal**.

Yearly dues are \$15.00 or you can become a Life Member for only \$375.00.

December 18, 1993 - Census information must be in to the editors by this date in order for your census to be included in the Master Capped Bust Half Dollar Census. This Master Census of Capped Bust Half Dollars (1807 - 1836) will include halves with a rarity of 'R4 or better' and is slated for Volume 8, Issue 2 (January, 1994) of the **JR Journal**. See the census reminder on page 18.

As Soon As Possible - Back issues are starting to dwindle so order right away.

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JRCS, P.O. Box 135, Harrison, Ohio 45030



Treasurer's Report - 01-Oct-1992 to 30-Sep-1993

The following treasurer's report is for the previous 12 months and includes the publication and first class mailing of four issues at an average price of \$3.24 per journal. Our membership is approximately 450. Five percent of our membership are life members!

Changes in our by-laws and a motion to increase annual dues to \$15 should help to balance our books for 1994. This report will also serve as the official 1993-94 dues reminder. This will be your last **JR Journal** if we do not receive your \$15 check (payable to JRCS) before December 1st. Or, if you wish to become a life member, a check for \$375.

The society is healthy thanks to your generosity of both information and fiscal support.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Logan
Treasurer

John Reich Collectors Society
P.O. Box 205
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Statement of cash receipts and disbursements for
12 month period ending 30-Sep-93

Cash Position On 01-Oct-92

Checking Account	\$4,589.27	
Life Membership Account	4,000.00	
On Hand	0.00	
	Total	\$8,589.27

Income

Back Issues Sales	\$ 563.00	
Interest & Donations	353.40	
Dues	5,713.00	
Life Membership	1,750.00	
	Total Income	\$8,379.40

Expenses

Supplies	\$ 467.60	
Journal	5,128.75	
Postage	1,677.51	
Miscellaneous	218.04	
	Total Expenses	\$7,491.90

Cash Position On 30-Sep-93

Checking Account	\$3,726.77	
Life Membership Account	5,750.00	
On Hand	0.00	
	Balance	\$9,476.77



